

(continued) Later in the week I plan to drive 215 miles in 4 hours up to Dallas. I wonder what the dial has in store for me on my journey and when I get there, whatever happens I'm sure to "have a nice day"!

## FOCUS "The Radio Perspective"

As Springtime beckons, the shortwave scene is becoming more varied. The 15 MHz band continues to be used by a handful of stations and night time activity promises to be on it's way up again with a possible return to the activity which reached a peak towards the end of last summer. Stations are on in the afternoon, on Saturdays this seems to have come out of nowhere with Rainbow Germany, Mi Amigo and a few Dutch stations on the air at this time in the past month. From Italy, the Voice of Europe looks to be an interesting project and shouldn't be as disappointing as the IRRS were. Of course Sunday mornings/early afternoons are still the popular anchor of the whole scene and 48m is still the firm favourite. But all-in-all, the developments of the past month or so suggests the coming months will be interesting and will generally create a wider choice for the listener.

Conditions apparently took a dive sometime in February (not that we noticed!) with the sunspot count dropping below 100 for a while. The count is currently around 125 which is quite low for a solar maximum period. However, low power txs around Europe are still producing good short-skip conditions during the day and even Virginia's little 2 watt tx is getting out fairly well!

And lastly, we know some of you like some DXing so here is some DX news: KUSW is reported to now be using 15590 2000-2200 and 15580 until 0300, lots of music on this one if you've never listened, try it! Radio for Peace are active on 21565 and 25945 2000-2330 weekdays and on the same frequencies at the weekend (Sat/Sun) but here the time is 1800-2330. Send us a list of your favourite DX stations and we'll try to keep up with them! It seems most free radio fans go for the private Americans plus a few others, probably because of the programmes. We're not too different ourselves! Until next time.....

Monthly SW/MW Free Radio News from  
3 Greenway, Harold Park, Romford,  
Essex, RM3 0HH, England.

# ACTIVITY

# MAGAZINE

Mar 90

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## SHORTWAVE

GREAT BRITAIN Britain's Better Music Station were heard QSOing with Radio Gloria on Sun 18 Feb in the afternoon on 6240 with weak strength. The BBMS op said he was also testing out his 8 watt tx. Presumably this is the same BBMS who were a tape-station a few years ago.

Britain Radio Int'l had an active month and, together with their regular broadcasts (11 and 25 Feb), were also carrying out early morning tests to America and Europe on Suns 4 and 18 Feb on 6315. The last of these special transmissions are expected on Suns 4 and 18 Mar, probably on 6315 again. The 50 watt tx has been used for these early broadcasts. BRI's "Top Tracks" programme (2nd Sun at 1200) has attracted a number of contributions, so if you'd like to have your ten favourite records featured on the show, send them to BRI and you'll receive the special QSL card on offer. Salisbury and Utrecht adds.

Radio Confusion made their Sunday morning return on Sun 18 Feb on 6308 with programmes starting before midday and running through until 1300. Op Steve Midnight was pleased



to receive at least a little mail for the Xmas broadcasts with reports turning up from Spain and Italy. The station expects to transmit this Sat 3 Mar starting around 2300 or 0000 as "Night time Confusion" is resumed for the Spring months. Format is "independent-orientated" and going by the Feb 18 broadcast is certainly different!

Delta Radio again didn't appear in Feb, the non-appearance in Jan was caused apparently by the DTI being in the area and so op Pete Edwards decided not to take any risks. Last Sat is their schedule but noting their inactivity,

perhaps they will be on in Mar before the last Sat with a test or something. RECC did comment on their "DX Programme" that Delta had "ceased on a temporary basis", so judge for yourself. Hunstanton add.

DX-20 was noted as part of a big QSO on Sun 25 Feb with a handful of other stations (WMR, PFBS, VOTN, Gloria) in the

early afternoon. A new tx was in use with 80 watts and was very strong here (S9) on the VFO channel around 6318. Bill's also built txs for 15 and 25 MHz and mentioned something about a "DX-20 project" coming up, wonder what that might be? A fully-fledged station perhaps?

Radio East Coast Commercial transmitted Sun 4 and 18 Feb on the new 6290 with good strength noted. The 11 MHz broadcasts appear to have been ceased since they haven't been heard for some time, which is sad since they gave RECC a greater coverage.

Falcon Radio lost their Northampton post office box in late Jan so don't write any letters to the add. anymore. A new add is now available though for the station and you can drop them a line via the RWI-Cedex maildrop in France. Transmissions continue to be regular on either 6849 or 6870 and can sometimes now be heard later into the day,

instead of just the "early bird" service operated at the end of last year. On Sun 18 Feb, they were celebrating their 5th anniversary on shortwave (MW had been active previous under the Falcon call-sign).

Radio 48 were active on Sun 4 Feb on 6280 and their strong signal caused some interference to nearby WFRL. Hosting shows were Mark Stafford (inc RNI 20th anniversary since launch in 1970) and Ian Scott with his "Mailbox" show. Radio 48 now uses the Hunstanton add.

Radio Freedom Int'l carried out their scheduled broadcasts during the month (1st/3rd Sun) but were unfortunate to be completely wiped out by a utility on Feb 18 on the 6205 channel. No sign though of the utility on Feb 25 so it seems this was just a one-off, time will tell. Radio Freedom are also doing nights, apparently last Sat and were heard Sat 24 Feb on 6205, time is 2100-0200. They have also been on Thurs night 2300-0100 but it's thought this has ceased in favour of Sat nights. RFI has 3 letters from Canada arrive in Edinburgh so they're getting out far and wide. Positive comments are being made about the station and one listener said they sounded very much like an offshore station from years ago!

Freesound Radio were heard as expected Sun 25 Feb on 6200 with a good signal. The current line-up (last Sun) appears to be: 1100 Mark King with rock, 1215 "Radio Show" with Steve West and 1300 Richard Grahame with oldies. Steve West's show on Feb 25 featured SW stations of the past such as Atlanta (still here of course), Krypton, Dynamite, EMR and Confusion-USA. In the future, Freesound will be more active and are adding a 2nd Sat transmission to their current schedule. The first of these: Sat 10 Mar beginning 1130. Add via Salisbury.

Radio Gloria continues to QSO and have been heard most Sun afternoons on 6315. No sign of any programmes of recent however from this Scottish operation.

KING Radio is Richard Grahame's new project and has been heard in Feb: Sat 17 Feb on 6299 (via Orion? Signal didn't seem as strong as there's though) with Terry Phillips (Mi Amigo DJ) and Sun 25 Feb on 6209 with Mark



King (Freesound) and again, Terry Phillips. Many jingles and oldies are available on this station! Could the 6209 transmission be their low power tx for the south coast since Richard intended to use the channel? Although it could be a JRR relay from Ireland. The fair signal gave no clues towards an answer. Add is same as Southsea.

Radio Mi Amigo are the sister-station to WFRL and carried out their planned broadcast on Sat 3 Feb 1500-1800 on 6233 although a UK listener said the mod was too low. Listen out at the same time in the future for more SW relays of this London-based FM oldies station.

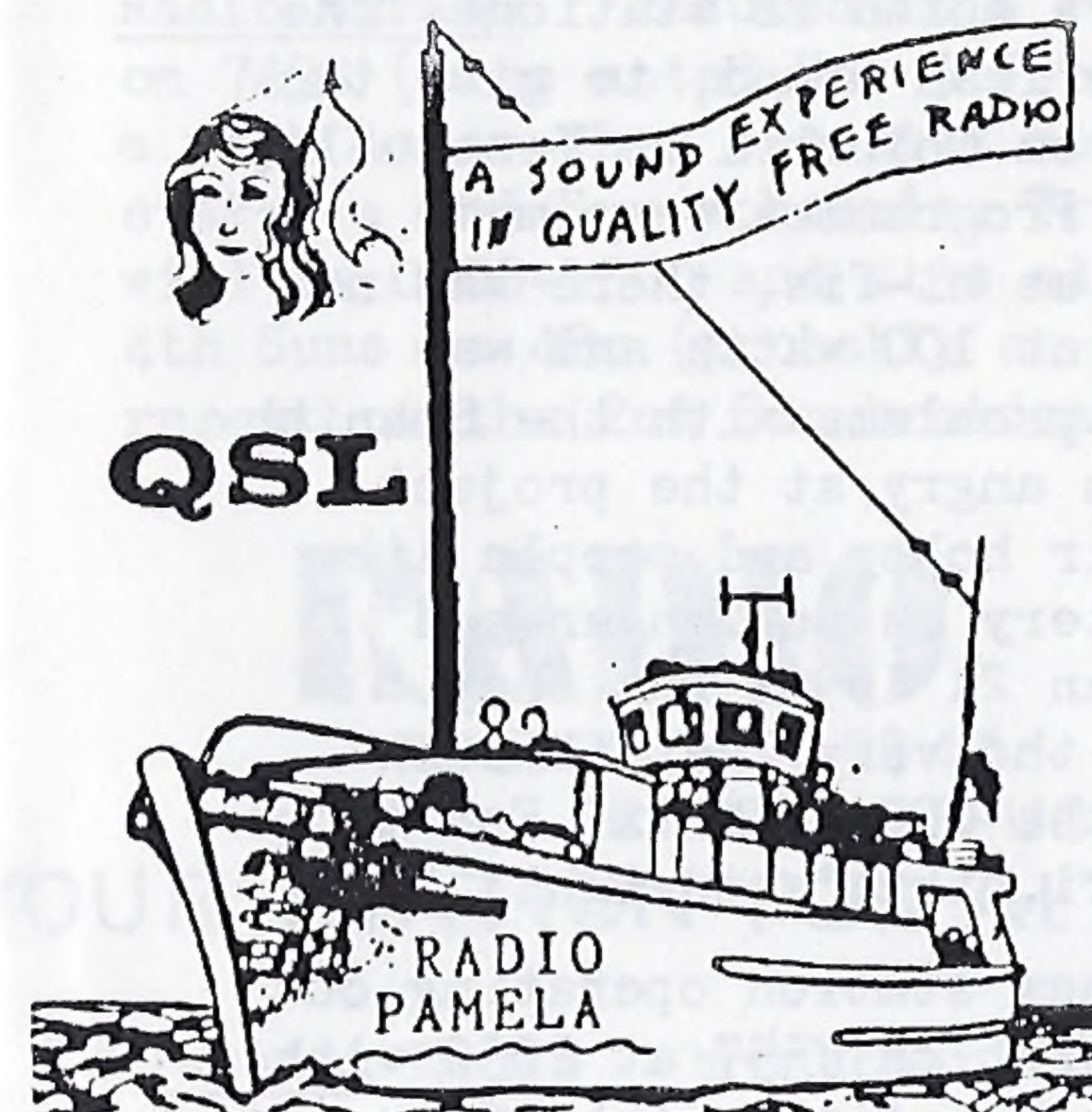
Radio Orion just go on and on Sun mornings each week on 6299, currently from mid-morning around 1045 until after 1400 sometime. The different DJs bring their own tastes into the studio with them ending up with an overall mixtures of oldies and rock on the station. Mike Wilson is still most prominent though as station op. If you've written to them recently then stand-by for a reply soon since Mike expects to visit to Birmingham PO Box in early March apparently.

Radio Pamela were relayed a few times (Feb 4 and 11) in the month via Orion on 6299 with shows from Steve Most. The return to shortwave via their own tx has yet to take place since nothing has been heard, so presumably the tx isn't fully ready yet, frequency should be 6888.

Star International were noted Sun 4 Feb over the SFRS on 6320, whatever happened to the planned return of sister-station FMTR? 231 Loose Rd, Maidstone, Kent is add.

Radio Stella Int'l transmitted overnight Sat 3-Sun 4 Feb on 6320 with a weak signal and oldies show from Jock Wilson. The previous week (Jan 28) their overnigher was heard in the USA at 0420 with SIO:232. Early Sun 25 Feb they were noted at 0753 (overnight again?) with Jock and Cyder. New photo QSLs are available apparently with pics of the Scottish duo! RSI seem intent on broadcasting outside the usual Sun 0900-1300 peak-period and good luck to them for doing so!

Weekend Music Radio had some QSOs during Feb on 48m and are also thought to have been on 15 MHz on Sun 25 Feb. We thought we heard Jack say that the last WMR broadcast



TO: PETE

DATE: 26 / 1 / 90

TIME: 7.50 PM - 10.26 PM

QRG: 186m = 1624 kHz

POWER: 60 WATTS

ANTENNA: 1/4 WAVE LONG WIRE  
73.5 Steve Most

P.O. BOX 220342, 5600 WUPPERTAL 22, W-GERMANY

would be in late March, maybe we misunderstood what he said exactly, hope so.

Wonderful Free Radio London closed it's regular service on Sun 11 Feb with the second of it's two broadcasts in the month. At least WFRL will continue with irregular broadcasts and will appear again within the next few months. The 11 Feb transmission came from a different-to-usual site and this seemed to have led to a loss of signal but our observation only perhaps is not a good sample! Future broadcasts are to take place to odd Sat (1000-1300) and 5th Suns when they come around.

Radio Virginia are the sister-station to Falcon and were heard Sun 11 Feb on 6848 with variable signal-strength. Lots of 60s music was noted from the rock n' roll genre. The 6848 tx (often carries Falcon) actually runs at just 1.8 watts!

THE CONTINENT La Voz de la Canyas From November 1988, a new station appeared on the "Tropical Bands" on 5068 and could be heard with strong signals in Europe. Just another station from Latin America? Well that's what a lot of people were led to think, but in fact this was a clever hoax run by a small group in Spain. The station was formed by people with a desire to make programmes and to carry out what they claimed as an experiment on the DX



community to see exactly how DXers noted TB stations. The hoax was completed by a Latin American sound, to give the impression that they broadcast from Colombia or Venezuela, there were fake commercials too! Programmes were made using simple home equipment such as hi-fis, there was no real studio. The transmitter ran at 100 watts and was called "Andromeda". There was no problems with the Spanish authorities. Some DXers were even angry at the project claiming that it made fun of their hobby and people like WRNOs Glen Hauser! Well, the mystery is no longer and their last transmission was on Jan 21 1990. But they expect to be active for probably the very last time on Fri 21 Mar at 2330 on 5068 with the 100 watt tx. For those of you who get ACTIVITY on the Fri, that's tonight!

Voice of Europe seems to be a new station operating out of Italy, they were heard Sun 25 Feb on 7557 at 2030 with a good signal but this was spoilt by utility interference. Continuous music and announcements in English by a woman were heard so perhaps these are tests, they gave the slogan "news and music for the new Europe". In fact as we write this on Mon 26 Feb at 1900, they're on again on the same 41m frequency and so threaten to be quite active. One to watch for in the coming weeks!

Radio DJ is another Italian station which has been active of late, reported (not heard by us yet) to be on 26040 on at least Suns and Weds. Not much else known at this end (presume no connection with French station of same name) and so we look forward to getting some more info on this one.

Clandestine Listeners Club Germany made a rare appearance on Sun 4 Feb via Dutch relay on 7490 with a reasonable signal. Amongst the features was the "Flashback Star Portrait" which this time featured Creedence Clearwater Revival. Also there was yet another edition of the endless series "Johnnie Walker's Offshore Memories". The current relay arrangement now seems to have ended after Steve Young commented that he was looking for a new relay and so wasn't sure when CLCG will be back. The current relay has been used for almost a year since April 1989.

Radio Marabu resumed it's regular service on Sun 18 Feb on 7490 (also noted Sat 3 Feb on 6320) although this was a week later than expected since info sent here by them states a 2nd Sun schedule. Transmissions on the 2nd Sun will be 0900-1300 and it's also possible they'll transmit 4th Suns on 48m (probably on 6280) with new shows or a repeat of the 2nd Sun broadcast.

## **RADIO MARABU**

POSTFACH 22 03 42 · D-5600 WUPPERTAL 22

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

**YOUR STATION FOR ALTERNATIVE MUSIC !**

Passion Radio broadcast a German show with English ann on Sun 11 Feb on 6230 which caused some interference to BRI but this probably was innocent since Roger Davis' had to go off the air shortly after signing-on with tech problems before returning later. Hold on! Not sure if any QRM took place but certainly Roger went to 6239 because of Passion.

Radio Northlight continued it's use of 15 MHz with a transmission on Sun 4 Feb on 15040. They were first noted at 0900 and again later 1130-1215 with fair to good strength. A QSO on 6315 was held same day with R. London.

Euro-Sat Radio are another one on 15 MHz and were reported Sun 4 Feb on 15006, the frequency is a little close to the time signals though. They've QSL'd a DXer in the USA recently with a long letter and other things. First heard over Xmas and we thought it was going to be a one-off but seems now to have plans for regular service?

Radio Brigitte were not heard last Fri in Feb as apparently scheduled but did appear on Fri 9 Feb after 0800 on 7485 with the usual distorted modulation!

Radio Atlantis are thought to be a German station and were heard on Sun 25 Feb on 7489 with dance music shows, it's not clear though if they were using their own tx.



Radio London transmitted on Sun 4 Feb using 6275 and at another time 6315 for a QSO with Northlight. On Sat 17 Feb a "long distance test" was noted 1420-1700\* on 6315.

Radio Pluto followed London at 1700 with a broadcast on 6240 and the DJ asking for "DX mail". One of the rare appearances from this Dutch station.

Radio Wahnsinn will be celebrating their 1st anniversary this Sun 4 Mar with a special broadcast beginning at 0830 on 7430. The transmission will last for 90 mins and will include oldies plus the top 3 of each broadcast since Mar 1989 when they started. A birthday QSL-letter will be available for those who write in regarding this broadcast. Signal-strength should be good if past transmissions are anything to go by but the programmes are all in German. Main man is Ricky Stone and contact is via the box add in Wuppertal in West Germany.

**Radio Wahnsinn**

Pirate Freaks Broadcasting Service used 15050 on Sun 18 Feb and can be heard on the new band fairly often following their initial transmissions there over Xmas. 48m has also been used in Feb, channels being 6315 + 41m = 7481.

Radio Waves Int'l made the switch to 6320 on Sun 18 Feb and the results here are good signals although just 50 or so miles away it's not so good but that's SW! 7440 was heard together with the new 48m frequency Sun 25 Feb so 41m it seems hasn't been dropped altogether.

Rainbow Radio Germany continue to be very active and are regularly heard Sat afternoons and Sun mornings on 6240, exception was on Sun 4 Feb when they were heard in the afternoon with fair to good strength, their best signal here yet! Tx power is 25 watts.

Radio Galaxy apparently broadcast on Sun 4 Feb on 6225 but whether this was with their high-power 1 KW rig is uncertain since they weren't heard here at ACTIVITY HQ.

Radio Rebel Int'l were noted for a few mins before sign-off at 0930 on Sun 25 Feb via RWI on 6320. The station is based in East Germany! One of many more to come? Like a number of other people the big event will come SWers direct from Eastern Europe! Pop music could be heard over RRI, it was unfortunate that we only caught 7 mins. Yes, we're not making much sense tonight are we?!?

IRELAND Jolly Roger Radio are regular on 6210/6229.

Ozone International were noted Sun 18 Feb on 6820.

Radio Star Country have apparently been heard on one of their harmonics somewhere on 4 MHz according to the WMR QSO on Sun 25 Feb. Usual MW frequency is 981 so calculate for yourself. Harmonics are usually low power so it's range shouldn't be great.

USA Radio USA were heard via European relay by RWI on 6320 on Sun 18 Feb with punk music and letters show. The station has been relayed in Europe before, most recently by WFRL.

USA Logbook via "Pirate Pages":

Sun 4 Feb

|          |           |         |
|----------|-----------|---------|
| 7416 KHz | WENJ      | at 0104 |
| 7416 KHz | Zodiac R. | at 0150 |
| 7428 KHz | WHBH      | at 1451 |

Sun 11 Feb

|               |             |         |
|---------------|-------------|---------|
| 7410 KHz      | Secret      | at 0358 |
| Society Radio |             | at 1437 |
| 7411 KHz      | R. Garbanzo | 0221    |
| 7411 KHz      | KPLU        | at 0305 |
| 7411 KHz      | KNBS        | at 2236 |
| 7414 KHz      | KPLU        | at 2220 |
| 7416 KHz      | VoAbnormal  | 0315    |
| 7417 KHz      | Radio USA   | at 1425 |
| 7425 KHz      | WXZR        | at 2130 |
| 7428 KHz      | WHBH        | at 2207 |
| 7527 KHz      | KNBS        | at 0104 |

Round-Up

On the left a very rough summing up of the US scene. Not that reflective really since American stations are active all over the place outside of Suns but hopefully gives some "feeling" into their scene. Most stations are "fixed", i.e. from home, and rumour has it that the scene could explode if the stations went "mobile". You've found a needle in a haystack if you can catch any of these 7 MHz ones in

Europe. Try 15000-15100 but remember that broadcasts are usually short and are likely to be weak. Thus a good antenna will do you no harm! Tune carefully also!



## MEDIUM WAVE

Radio Pamela were heard just once on MW during Feb and this was on Sun 4 when they were on 1611, the signal had improved to good and was much stronger compared to their previous broadcasts, perhaps an increase in power? The modulation was a bit distorted though at times, this might have been something to do with the fact they were using a VFO rig. Programmes were first heard around 1700 and went on into the early hours of the following Monday morning. Hosting shows were Steve Most and Mike Wilson but other DJs available are Jay Dunstone, DJ Rob (Steve Most under alias), Richard Grahame. No sign of Pamela for the rest of Feb though.

Black Power Radio could be heard Sun 28 Jan 0007-0028\* on 1619 with pop music and Dutch announcements. A fair to good signal received. The op had a QSO after closing.

Radio Kristal Int'l had rock music and English announcements on Sat 10 Feb 0005-0021\* on 1626 but the reception was mostly poor due to interference from a nearby utility station. Add here is: Postbus 224, 7440 AE Nijverdal, Holland.

Radio 807 seem to be a fairly active station and were playing Dutch music Sat 10 Feb 2125-2135\* with a good signal, the previous week on Sat 3 Feb the op was QSOing with Radio Sapporro. Contact: R. 807, Postbus 341, 3770 AH Barneveld, Holland.

Radio Toulouse had some obvious technical miscalculations on Fri 2 Feb when they could be heard with a perfectly modulated mike but far too low music. This clouded in effect a good signal. Heard 2356-0012\* on 1617 with Mamas and Papas music.

Radio Sapporro are a Dutch traditionalist music-wise and were noted on Sat 3 Feb at 2150 briefly before closing on 1616. Good signal-strength and announcements in Dutch, a QSO with Radio 807 followed.

For as many IDs this month, we also had around half a dozen UNIDs but there was nothing startling amongst, just the usual Dutch music and so on.

\*\*\*\*\* ANDY WALKER in HOUSTON, TEXAS, USA.

It's around 8 PM on Tuesday evening as I lie here on my bed with the TV on but no sound. I'm watching basketball and listening to album rock station KLOL ("The Outlaw") on 101.1. The fan above my head spins at low speed keeping the room cool from the 70 degrees heat here in downtown Houston, the second largest city in the second largest state in the union, Texas.

America is as big as everyone says and the choice of radio stations is fantastic, around 40 in this area alone. I've channel-zapped like never before. Classic rock KZFX ("Zee 107") 107.5 is one of the best stations I've ever heard, along with oldies station KLDE on 94.5. I can listen to anything here, christian, classical, jazz, gospel, R&B, Top 40, country, urban contemporary, news and sport, hard rock, the list seems endless. Even KIKK ("Kick"), one of the country stations is entertaining.

Most of the output is on FM, 27 stations, the rest on AM are sports, news, spanish etc. The only hard rock station is KKZR 1070, then there's rock oldies on KNUZ 1230. I don't understand how they label the stations as hard rock, classic rock, album rock and rock oldies, it's a fine line, but it works. There's even KYOK 1590 who play classic R&B! The older people tune into KODA 99.1 for the adult spectrum, an upmarket Radio 2 with style and yes I like it. One station, KPFT goes under the label of "Pacifica", believe me it's different.

Radio is big business here, huge signs jump out at drivers on the freeways, colourful and high in the sky. Breakfast and drivetime programmes carry fast weather reports, and traffic news from helicopters high above the jams in and around the city with music and commercials aimed at the millions of drivers in cars going to and coming from work, plus the many trucks that scream along the "loop" (Ring-road) that circles this modern high-rise city of glass and concrete. Houston- one of America's many large and modern cities with radio to fit the pace of life.

Tomorrow a fantastic looking blonde is showing me around the downtown area, then I hope to hire a car (turn over)